

# National Service Impact in Nevada

## AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps Nevada grant funding is distributed through Nevada Volunteers, a Governor-appointed service Commission, which awards funds to local nonprofits. In 2011-12, 308 members served in 87 host site locations supporting the work of 60 Nevada nonprofit, education, or public agencies in large and small communities throughout the state. These members engaged 3,579 volunteers who donated 31,173 hours of service. Members served more than 259,930 hours making a direct impact on Nevada. Among other accomplishments, AmeriCorps members collected 336,639 pounds of food to support 14,552 Nevada families; fed seniors in rural Nevada 8,144 meals; provided 48,781 Nevada youth tools to go to college; engaged 24,863 parents with their local school district; restored or improved 4,020 acres of public land; and collected and recycled 219 tons of waste material.

## AmeriCorps NCCC

The Great Basin Institute (GBI) is an interdisciplinary field studies organization that promotes environmental research, education, and conservation throughout the West. The Nevada Conservation Corps is a program within the Great Basin Institute that enables students and young professionals to make meaningful contributions toward protecting and conserving Nevada's natural heritage. AmeriCorps NCCC teams have worked with the GBI to restore up to five miles of damaged hillside areas, transplant 1,523 shrubs and other plants, place 480 informational signs to designate established routes, install 3,300 feet of fencing, and build an informational kiosk. This work provided a significant boost to the restoration and rehabilitation of the Sand Mountain Recreation Area.

## AmeriCorps VISTA

Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada in Reno is in their first year as an AmeriCorps VISTA project. Three VISTAs are recruiting and training community volunteers to develop a Legalization and Empowerment Assistance Program for Students, which aims to improve educational and employment prospects for foreign-born youth. An example of the type of person they are helping is a student who has four siblings who are U.S. Citizens, and a mother who is a legal permanent resident. In order to apply for citizenship, this student will have to pay a \$1,000 fine. As this student wants to attend college, but has no immigration protection and no authorization to work legally, she needs help to pay this fine, and enroll in college. The VISTAs are fundraising to help this student, and others like her achieve legal permanent residency.

## Senior Corps

Only 23 percent of students at Vaughn Middle School in Reno passed their algebra proficiency exams. RSVP Volunteer Steve Burns began volunteering at the school by fixing computers, but his love of math eventually led him to tutoring at this school where 98 percent of the students qualify for free or reduced lunches. Steve now serves at the school five days a week for five class periods per day. His contributions as an RSVP volunteer have played a significant part in increasing the number of students who passed the algebra exam in 2012 to 70 percent - an enormous boost by any standard. The skills that Steve gained while working for Boeing for 33 years are now helping him to impact the lives of students in his "second career" as an RSVP volunteer.